

Great Lobelia, Blue Cardinal Flower.

(*Lobelia syphilitica*)

Flowers- ; Bright Blue, touched with white , fading to pale blue, abo ut
1 in. long, borne on tall, erect , leafy spike. Calyx 5 parted, the lobes sharply
cut, hairy, Corolla tubular, open to base on one side , 2 lipped, irregularly
5 lobed, the petals pronounced at maturity only. Stamens 5, united by their
hairy anthers into a tube around the style; ~~simple, leafy, slightly hairy~~
larger anthers smooth.

Stem- 1 to 3 ft. high, stout, leafy, slightly hairy.

Leaves- Alternate, oblong, tapering, pointed, irregularly toothed
2 to 6 in long $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 in. wide.

Preferred Habitat- Moist or wet soil ; some times along the streams

Flowering Season- July and October.

This species of the Lobelia plant is so common in the South West ern
Part of Pocahontas County , and especially on Bruffeys, and Hills Creek ,
that the entire neighborhood is called " LOBELIA" And the Post Office
of that region of the County is called "Lobelia" after this wild flower
which is found so abundantly in that neighborhood.

COMPOSITE FAMILY. (Compositae)

Iron weed; Flat Top.

(*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

Flower-head :- Composite of tubular florets only, intense reddish-purple thistle-like heads, borne on short, branched peduncles and forming broad, flat-clusters; bracts of involucre, brownish purple, tipped with awl shaped bristles.

Stem: 3 to 9 ft high rough or hairy branched.

Leaves:- Alternate, narrowly oblong or lance-ovate, saw-edged, 3 to 10 in. long, and rough.

Preferred -Habitat.-Moist Soil, damp meadow fields.

Flowering Season - July - September.

The Iron-weed is one of the beautiful wild flowers, that brighten the roadsides and low meadows throughout the summer with bright clusters of bloom. When it is on the wane, the asters, for which it is sometimes mistaken, begin to appear, but an instant comparison shows the difference between the two flowers. After noting the yellow disk in the center of the aster, it is not likely the iron-weed, a thistle like head of ray florets only will ever again be confused with it. Another rank growing neighbor with which it has been confounded by the novice is the Joe-Pye Weed, a far paler, old-rose colored flower, as one does not meet them both afield may see on comparing the colored plates in the botanical books.

This wild flower is found mostly in the low altitudes of Pocahontas County; in the wet pasture lands.

Joe-Pye Weed; Trumpets Weed; Purple Thoroughwort; Gravel or Kidney-root;
Tall or Purple Boneset.

(*Eupatorium purpureum*)

Flower-heads-- Pale or dull magenta or lavender pink, slightly fragrant,
of tubular florets only, very numerous, in large, terminals, loose, compound
clusters, generally elongated. Several series of pink overlapping bracts
form the oblong involucre from which the tubular florets and its protruding fringe
of style-branches arise.

Stem:- 3 to 10 ft. high green or purplish, leafy usually branching toward top.

Leaves:- In whorls of 3 to 6 usually 4, oval to lance-shaped, saw edged,
petioled, thin, rough.

Preferred Habitat:- Moist soil, meadows, woods, and low ground.

Towering above the surrounding vegetation of low lying meadows
this vigorous composite spreads clusters of soft, fringy bloom that, however
deep or pale the tint, are ever conspicuous advertisements, even when the
golden-rods, sunflowers, and asters enter into close competition for insect
trade. This worthless, and beautiful flower that is so common in all
parts of Pocahontas County especially in low meadows; received its name
from an Indian medicine-man, of the New England Colonies, by the name of
Joe-Pye, who earned fame and fortune by curing typhus fever and other
dreaded diseases with decoctions made from this plant.

Podacanth;

Boneset; Common Thoroughwort; Agueweed; Indian Sage.

(*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Flower-heads. - Composite, the numerous small, dull, white heads of tubular florets only, crowded in spreading, flat-topped terminal cymes.

Stem:- Stout, tall, branching above, hairy, leafy.

Leaves:- Opposite, often united at their bases, or clasping, ~~lance~~ lance-shaped, saw-edged, wrinkled.

Preferred Habitat.- Wet ground, low meadows road sides.

Flowering Season. July -- September.

This is a very peculiar wild flower and plant; sometimes the stem appears to run through the center of one large leaf that is kinky in the middle and taper-pointed at both ends, rather than between two leaves.

Old-fashioned illness known as "break bone fever" doubtless paralleled to day by the grip- once had its terrors for a patient increased a hundred fold by the certainty he felt of taking nauseous doses of bone set tea, administered by zealous old women outside the "regular practice". Children had to have their noses held before they would - or indeed, could- swallow the decoction

This weed was used by the Indians as medicine, and was by them introduced to the white men. It was used by the Chippewa Indians ~~d/s~~ as a charm. It has the properties of Quinine.